



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/285,249	04/02/1999	JOHN S. HENDRICKS	5200	3419

26291 7590 07/28/2005

MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN L.L.P.
595 SHREWSBURY AVE, STE 100
FIRST FLOOR
SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702

EXAMINER

KOENIG, ANDREW Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2611

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/285,249	HENDRICKS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Andrew Y. Koenig	2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 23-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 23-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 and 23-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-16, and 25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wunderlich et al. (Wunderlich) in view of Farry et al. (Farry) and further in view of Banker (5,357,276) and Masuko et al. (Masuko) (4,686,564).

Considering claim 1, Wunderlich discloses an apparatus for video on demand program: comprising.

- a) a receiver (51) to receive requests for video on demand programs (col. 9, lines 1-3);
- b) a network manager (51) to process said program request (col. 9, lines 4-14);
- c) a file server (52), coupled to the network manager (51), wherein the file server spools the requested program via device (53).

Although Wunderlich discloses authorizing the subscriber to view the requested program (col. 9, lines 15-20 and 23-26), he fails to specifically disclose an authorization component to transmit a first authorization code to enable set top terminals to receive a requested program, use of a preview channel, and a second authorization code to descramble a scrambled program as recited in the claims.

Farry discloses an apparatus (figure 16) for video on demand programs comprising an authorization component (1670 and/or 501) that transmits a notification signal (e.g. an authorization code or identification) to a level 1 gateway server (1640) for the advantage of authorizing service to a subscriber. See column 11, lines 1-35.

Banker discloses use of a preview channel, transmitting scrambled programs from a headend to set top terminals, and transmitting authorization codes from a system manager to set top terminals for descrambling the scrambled programs. See the entire reference including but not limited to col. 6, lines 54+ through col. 7:3, col. 9:46-48, col. 10: 1-16.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wunderlich's system (if necessary) to include an authorization component to transmit an authorization code to enable set top terminals to receive a requested programs as taught by Farry, for the typical advantage authorizing service to a subscriber.

Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combined systems of Wunderlich and Farry to include use a preview channel as well as a second authorization code to descramble a scrambled program, as taught

Art Unit: 2611

by Banker, for the additional advantage of conserving bandwidth and descrambling scrambled programs received by set top terminals to prevent theft of program signals.

The combination of Wunderlich, Farry, and Banker teaches providing in response to a requested programming a code to enable delivery of a requested program, but is silent on a code to authorize tuning to a specific preview channel and enable delivery of a requested program. In analogous art, Masuko teaches canceling a requested program within a predetermined amount of time to prevent the user from being charged for the service (col. 18, ll. 12-24, col. 18, ll. 49-58), consequently, Masuko teaches that an authorization code of the combination of Wunderlich, Farry, and Banker can be sent, wherein the user can cancel the programming without being charged, which equates to authorizing a set top terminal to tune to a specific preview channel (e.g. the first part of a program when a user can exit without being charged) and enabling the delivery of the requested program. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wunderlich, Farry, and Banker by permitting the user to cancel a requested program without being charged as taught by Masuko in order to authorize a terminal to tune to a preview channel and enable delivery of a requested program thereby enhancing the ability of the user to watch desirable programming.

Claim 2 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker, wherein Wunderlich discloses a network manager (51) that comprises a processor

Art Unit: 2611

inherently having an instruction memory for executing the processing of the program request is described at col. 9, lines 4-14.

Claim 3 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker, wherein Wunderlich discloses a network manager (51) that comprises a processor having control software that group the program requests based on if an on demand channel is available for a given time period. For users that request a channel when all on demand channels are in use, these user requests are grouped by providing users a next open block of time for requesting (col. 9, lines 15-25).

Claims 4-5 are met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker, wherein Banker discloses time windows for requesting and receiving program requests in association with providing NVOD services in col. 1 1:2-8, col. 1 1:23-43, and seen with reference to Figs. 8 and 9 showing time periods for a movie restarting in 9 minutes and the ability to select to receive the requested program. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wunderlich in view of Farry by utilizing time windows for program requests as taught by Banker in order to enhance NVOD service by providing the subscriber with user friendly features that emulate the VCR functions of pause, fast forward, and rewind (Banker, col. 1 1:43-46).

Art Unit: 2611

Claim 6 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker, wherein Wunderlich discloses that programs are stored in MPEG format at col. 7, lines 60-65.

Claim 7 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker, wherein Wunderlich discloses that the request for VOD programs are from set top terminals (14) described throughout the reference including but not limited to col. 5, lines 15-20 and col. 9, lines 1-40.

Claim 8 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry, and Banker because the transferring of any signal (including an authorization code between two equipments has to include an interface device. For example, a printer interface card is necessary in a computer to send data to the printer and an interface is needed in a computer in order to receive input data from a keyboard. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that in interface is a necessary device in the transfer of data between equipments.

Claim 9 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker as described in the rejections of claims 3 and 8.

Claim 10 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich and Farry as described in the rejections of claims 3 and 8, since Farry's authorization component (501) has to receive a request in order to issue authorization.

Claim 11 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker, wherein Wunderlich discloses a network manager (51) that comprises a processor inherently having an instruction memory for executing the processing of the program request as described at col. 9, lines 4-14.

Claim 12 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker, wherein Wunderlich discloses a network manager (51) that comprises a processor having control software that compile the program requests to determine if a channel is available for a requesting subscriber as described in col. 9, lines 15-25.

Claim 13 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker, wherein Wunderlich discloses that the request for VOD programs are from set top terminals (14) described through out the reference including but not limited to col. 5, lines 15-20 and col. 9, lines 1-40.

Claims 14-15 are met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker, wherein Wunderlich discloses that 51e server deliver at least one requested program to the requesting subscriber.

Claim 16 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker, wherein Wunderlich discloses that programs are stored in MPEG format at col. 7, lines 60-65. Note that MPEG programs are digital programs.

As for claim 25, the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker disclose all the claimed subject matter as noted above, particularly in response to claims 1 and 4.

4. Claims 17-20 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wunderlich et al. (Wunderlich) in view of Farry et al. (Farry) and further in view of Banker (5,357,276) and Harney (5,245,420)

Considering claim 17, Wunderlich discloses an apparatus for video on demand program: comprising.

- a) a receiver (51) to receive requests for video on demand programs (col. 9, lines 1-3);
- b) a network manager (51) to process said program request (col. 9, lines 4-14);
- c) a file server (52), coupled to the network manager (51), wherein the file server spools the requested program via device (53).

Although Wunderlich discloses authorizing the subscriber to view the requested program (col. 9, lines 15-20 and 23-26), he fails to specifically disclose an authorization

Art Unit: 2611

component to transmit a first authorization code to enable set top terminals to receive a requested program, use of a preview channel, and a second authorization code to descramble a scrambled program as recited in the claims.

Farry discloses an apparatus (figure 16) for video on demand programs comprising an authorization component (1670 and/or 501) that transmits a notification signal (e.g. an authorization code or identification) to a level 1 gateway server (1640) for the advantage of authorizing service to a subscriber. See column 11, lines 1-35.

Banker discloses use of a preview channel, transmitting scrambled programs from a headend to set top terminals, and transmitting authorization codes from a system manager to set top terminals for descrambling the scrambled programs. See the entire reference including but not limited to col. 6, lines 54+ through col. 7:3, col. 9:46-48, col. 10: 1-16.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wunderlich's system (if necessary) to include an authorization component to transmit an authorization code to enable set top terminals to receive a requested programs as taught by Farry, for the typical advantage authorizing service to a subscriber.

Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combined systems of Wunderlich and Farry to include use a preview channel as well as a second authorization code to descramble a scrambled program, as taught by Banker, for the additional advantage of conserving bandwidth and descrambling scrambled programs received by set top terminals to prevent theft of program signals.

The combination of Wunderlich, Farry, and Banker teaches providing in response to a requested programming a code to enable delivery of a requested program, but is silent on a code to authorize tuning to a specific preview channel and enable delivery of a requested program. In analogous art, Masuko teaches canceling a requested program within a predetermined amount of time to prevent the user from being charged for the service (col. 18, ll. 12-24, col. 18, ll. 49-58), consequently, Masuko teaches that an authorization code of the combination of Wunderlich, Farry, and Banker can be sent, wherein the user can cancel the programming without being charged, which equates to authorizing a set top terminal to tune to a specific preview channel (e.g. the first part of a program when a user can exit without being charged) and enabling the delivery of the requested program. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wunderlich, Farry, and Banker by permitting the user to cancel a requested program without being charged as taught by Masuko in order to authorize a terminal to tune to a preview channel and enable delivery of a requested program thereby enhancing the ability of the user to watch desirable programming.

Wunderlich discloses a network manager (51) that comprises a processor having control software that group the program requests based on if an on demand channel is available for a given time period. For users that request a channel when all on demand channels are in use, these user requests are grouped by providing users a next open block of time for requesting (col. 9, lines 15-25).

Further claim 17 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry, and Banker because the transferring of any signal (including an authorization code between two equipments has to include an interface device. For example, a printer interface card is necessary in a computer to send data to the printer and an interface is needed in a computer in order to receive input data from a keyboard. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that an interface is a necessary device in the transfer of data between equipments.

Wunderlich discloses a network manager (51) that comprises a processor having control software that group the program requests based on if an on demand channel is available for a given time period, but is silent on a timer extending from an initial request for a program. Harney teaches entering a movie after the beginning of the movie (col. 16, ll. 38-45), which equates to a time period extending from an initial request of a program. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wunderlich, Farry, Banker by timer extending from an initial request for a program as taught by Harney in order to permit users to enter programming at their desired time.

Claims 18-19 are met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker, wherein Wunderlich discloses that programs are stored in MPEG format at col. 7, lines 60-65. Note that MPEG programs are digital programs.

Claim 20 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker &s described in the rejection of claim 1. In particular, the claimed "e) authorizing viewing or delivering of the requested program" is met by the first and/or the second authorization codes and the claimed "f) downloading a second authorization code. . . ." is met by the authorization code taught by Banker. Furthermore, Banker teaches an initial request of an on demand program followed by use of time periods as noted in response to claim 4 and seen in Figs. 8 and 9 showing 9 minutes remaining for a user to provide an additional request. A user may provide this request or choose to wait to a later time, thus authorizing viewing or deliver after the time period (in this case, 9 minutes) expires by using the next channel and a different program block, in this case divided into 15 minute increments. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wunderlich in view of Farry by utilizing time windows for program requests as taught by Banker in order to enhance NVOD service by providing the subscriber with user friendly features that emulate the VCR functions of pause, fist forward, and rewind (Banker, col. 1 1:43-46).

Wunderlich discloses a network manager (51) that comprises a processor having control software that group the program requests based on if an on demand channel is available for a given time period, but is silent on a timer extending from an initial request for a program. Banker teaches entering a movie after the beginning of the movie as shown in figure 7b, label A26, which equates to a time period extending from an initial request of a program (col. 16, ll. 38-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wunderlich,

Art Unit: 2611

Farry by timer extending from an initial request for a program as taught by Banker in order to permit users to enter programming at their desired time.

As for claim 23, the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker teach use of a preview channel with authorization as taught by Banker in the above noted sections and col. 9:46-48.

As for claim 24, the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker disclose all the claimed subject matter as noted above, Claim 24 is met by the combined systems of Wunderlich, Farry and Banker, wherein Wunderlich discloses a network manager (51) that comprises a processor having control software that group the program requests based on if an on demand channel is available for a given time period. For users that request a channel when all on demand channels are in use, these user requests are grouped by providing users a next open block of time for requesting (col. 9, lines 15-25).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Y. Koenig whose telephone number is (571) 236-7804. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (7:30 - 6:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on (571) 272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ayk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ayk', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.